

Religious Intelligence.

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

VOL. XLVI.—NO. 20

FREDERICTON N. B., MAY 18, 1898

WHOLE No. 2822

Notes and Gleanings.

The Queen has abandoned her practice of rising early and transacting business before breakfast. Like the Prince and Princess of Wales, she rarely breakfasts now before ten, and does not begin work until after eleven.

The oldest living creature in the world, so far as records exist, is a giant tortoise which was taken not long ago from the little island of Aldabra in the Indian Ocean to the Zoological Gardens in London. It weighs over a ton, and its record goes back one hundred and fifty years. How much older it may be cannot now be discovered.

Eight of the most remarkable marriages on record took place within a few weeks in the parish of Saint Marie, Quebec. Two neighbors, named Morin and Rheume, have each eight children, four sons and four daughters. Rheume's four sons have married Morin's four daughters, and Morin's four sons have married the daughters of Rheume.

Christian Science has invaded Eng-land, and an investigator from the Westminster Gazette reports that he "could extract no coherent scheme of teaching from the mystical negation of matter." What is certain, however, is that fees are charged for the treatment, and that persons initiated into the arena of Scientist healing are required to pay £20 for the cause.

The statistician of the United States Geological Survey has made a statement to the effect that the total coal output in the United States for 1897 was nearly 198,250,000 tons, with an aggregate value of \$198,100,000, a little less than a dollar per ton. This is an increase of 6,270,000 tons over the output of 1896. The product of last year was the largest on record, and the average value per ton the lowest.

While the population of Europe, estimated at 175,000,000 in the beginning of the century, rose to 216,000,000 in 1830, 300,000,000 in 1870, and is now nearly 370,000,000, there has been a still more remarkable increase in the number of towns with over 100,000 inhabitants. There were only 21 of these in 1801 (with 4,500,000 inhabitants), 42 in 1850, 70 in 1870 (with 20,000,000 inhabitants), and 121 in 1896 (with about 37,000,000 inhabitants). In 1801 France had three towns with over 100,000 inhabitants, while England and Germany had two each, but in 1870 the figures were—England 18, Germany 10, and France 9, while in 1896 they stood—England 30, Germany 28 and France 10.

The "Pall Mall Gazette" says that King Oscar of Sweden and Norway is probably the most cultured Prince now sitting on any throne. Besides being a great linguist, speaking no less than seven languages perfectly, he is a poet and writer of great ability, and his poems are not only widely read throughout Sweden, but have been translated into several foreign tongues. A first-rate musician with a beautiful voice an eloquent orator, and an enthusiastic sportsman, the Swedish King is all of these. But, in spite of his many interests and accomplishments, he has kept his duties and responsibilities ever before him, and has been true to his motto: "Bodra-folken val" (the brother peoples' good).

THE QUEEN REGENT.—In connection with the Queen Regent of Spain, Mr. Frederic Harrison, in a letter to The London Times, points out that she is not only a Hapsburg, but has also in her veins the blood of William the Silent. The descendant of the man who defended the Netherlands against the Spanish monarch, and Alva, his bloody emissary, now occupies the Spanish throne, and is waging war against a Protestant Power. "It is a descendant of William of Nassau who to-day rules Spain in her fierce grapple with a distant possession in revolt—a province which she has desolated with fire and sword, till again, as in the age of our own Elizabeth, it has drawn in the intervention of Anglo-Saxon Protestants." And thus the whirligig of Time brings in his revenges.

The New Africa.

The Independent of May 5th had a series of most interesting and instructive articles on the past and the future of Africa. Among the writers were Henry M. Stanley, W. T. Stead, Sir George Goldie, Dr. Carrol and Bishop Harzell. The others wrote of the partition of the dark continent; of the possessions there of England, France, Belgium and Germany; of the railroads and telegraphs that are now penetrating every part of the country, and of its vast and growing commerce. A fine map of Africa accompanied the articles, showing the political divisions. An editorial summary of the papers says:

What political changes the next century will bring in a continent which has interested the world for thousands of years cannot be foreseen; but there is no probability that a great native negro kingdom will rise. The control is likely to continue where it is now placed, in European hands. The few States that may be called native have no promise of permanence. The destiny of the two Boer Republics is absorption in British South Africa. Mr. Stead, it will be observed, is very confident of this; and he has good reasons for his confidence. Independent Morocco and semi-independent Tripoli, on the Mediterranean, have no future of their own. Sooner or later they will go to swell the possessions of France and other European Powers.

We must regard Africa, therefore, as an appendage of Europe. The white races which pushed back the natives and settled and control the American continent, from Cape Barrow to Cape Horn, dominate all the other continents and the black tribes of Africa as well as the brown and yellow of Asia, are subject to their rule. The greatest of the Asiatic kingdoms is in process of decay, and its partition has already begun. It seems terribly unjust for the white interlopers to wrest two continents, America and Australia, from the aboriginal man and make them their own; to take another from the Asiatic races and erect their standards over it, and finally, to take Africa from the blacks and subject it wholly to their will.

Has the Lord, then, given the earth to the white man? Evidently he has; but for a great and noble purpose. The earth belongs to those who know how to make the best use of it. The savage and degraded blacks of Africa prey upon one another like wild beasts. They enslave and destroy, but do not develop humanity. They do not cultivate, or invent, or educate. They make progress impossible, until a stronger and better race subdues them to peace and shows them more profitable employments than war, and nobler institutions than slavery.

This is the inspiring purpose of British enterprise in Africa. It is not conquest for plunder, but for peace and stability, that the soil may be cultivated, the products of mine and forest gathered, commerce developed, family life regulated, communities established, and civilization introduced. It is impossible to doubt that Henry M. Stanley's masterly and fascinating forecast of British Africa will be more than justified in the events of the coming century; for British policy is a large and generous policy, and it is exceedingly wise, also, for it creates conditions that mean constant increase. Spain and Portugal think only of what they can exact from their colonies in Africa and the Philippines. They reap, but do not plant; they exhaust instead of stimulating. Caravans will do for them, where England and Germany must have railroads; forced labor, where their progressive rivals seek willing, intelligent service.

Mr. Stead thinks that British alertness, of which there can be no question, has secured everything that is valuable in Africa—the best soil, the most salubrious climate, the richest countries, the largest rivers, the finest harbors, and the most progressive tribes. Something is to be allowed to his exuberant rhetoric and to his beautiful facility of rounding out statements. There is, however, a superiority in English colonies, which the dull figures of commerce and finance attest; but it is not largely the result of the Anglo-Saxon gift of colonial development? Commander Bley admits that Germany is slow and hesitat-

ing where England is quick and decided. Both the Germans and the French have a contempt for the natives which hinders development. The inhuman cruelty of the Marchand expedition advertises French selfishness and alienates native confidence.

It is not difficult after one has studied the French, German, Belgian and English programs so skillfully mapped out in our columns, this week, by experts, to give almost unreserved acceptance to the horoscope of Africa cast by Mr. Stanley. The continent is to be under European domination in an increasing degree as "Spheres of Influence" are gradually changed into directly governed provinces; and this means a new and nobler future for its millions of savage and half savage people.

Lieutenant Lemaire's account of the development of the Congo State (whose foundations were laid, by the way, by an Englishman) is singularly inspiring. The opening of that marvelous country is like the creation of a great empire. Sir George Goldie like-wise brings to our view a region rich in products and promise. That there will be an English railway along the backbone of the continent from Cairo to Cape Town Mr. Stanley expects and Mr. Stead firmly believes. Is Cecil Rhodes a statesman of the twentieth century? At all events, we have seen no better definition of England's policy than the following, given a few days ago in London:

"England's duty in the world is the administration of new countries and the working up of the raw products and their subsequent distribution to the world."

A century ago the white man went to Africa to get slaves; now he goes to get Africa. But his coming means the end of internal slavery and the overthrow of the rascally Arab slave-traders, the end of destructive tribal raidings, the abolition of human sacrifices, the preparation of an era of peace, introduction of the industrial arts, the refinement of the savage nature, the spread of missionary enterprise, the rise of schools, and the opening of steam highways on land and lake and river. If, therefore, the European comes to steal, he comes to steal not to take away, but to improve and develop and make more valuable. The in the disguise of a marauder, his errand is one of mercy and peace and progress.

The Sargasso Sea.

It is not generally known that within a week's sail of New York, east of Puerto Rico, is a vast and trackless waste, unexplored by the hardest sailors, uncrossed by the stateliest of steamships, consisting of growing seaweed, blooming and blooming plants, creeping and twining vines, a floating island of verdure almost as large as the state of Texas, so thin in places that steamers might plow their way through it, but in other parts of indefinite depth and a solid barrier against navigation. In this great central swirl of the Atlantic are countless lost ships whose tales of disaster are unknown and unwritten. The last report of the United States commissioner of navigation estimates these derelicts at more than a thousand in number.

Geographers have little to say about this floating continent of seaweed, but the hard facts are that the "Sargasso Sea" is the one remaining wonder shop of the world, wherein are gathered all the lost tales in the ocean's keeping—the Miletus of modern days. Lieutenant Maury of the United States navy, in his "Physical Geography of the Sea" apparently knew little about this curious maelstrom in the Atlantic, although it was discovered by Columbus and named by him the "Sea-weed Sea." The encyclopedia is equally deficient in information regarding this great expanse of un navigable ocean surface. Upon the last chart that is accessible, the floating continent is located between 22 degrees and 28 degrees north latitude, and 25 degrees and 60 degrees longitude west of Greenwich. In area, therefore, it equals about 200,000 square miles. Its position varies somewhat from year to year, navigators maintaining that under the influence of unexplained deflection in the African current the great mass of ever-blooming verdure is brought nearer to the Azore Islands some years than others.—Boston Post.

Life is short, and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are travelling the same dark journey with us. O, be swift to love, make haste to be kind.—Ariel.

The Liquor War in Germany.

Attentive people cannot fail to notice drunkenness is increasing in Germany in the country as well as in the cities. Medical men, political economists, and clergymen appreciate and record the fact with much sorrow on account of its deplorable results. That the use of spirituous liquors is equally increasing in the countries around us, that some nations are even worse off in this respect, cannot comfort us. Drunkenness is an inherited evil with us, and we must not mince matters in combating it. Hence we should appreciate the efforts of our societies for the promotion of temperance, such as the Blue Cross Society, the societies of Catholic Journeymen, and the Evangelical lodging houses, all of which have done good work. Renewed activity in the battle for temperance is shown in such works as Elrich Flade's "Temperance Movement in Germany," which should be widely circulated. The author points out that drunkenness is an enemy which may in time reduce our military strength. The excellence of our troops depends much more upon the quality of our men than upon the pattern of our arms. We need sober, healthy, strong, and steady men, men who can be enthusiastic without stimulants. Alcohol destroys these properties and increases our death-rate more than war and epidemics. Temperance, in conjunction with its natural ally, thriftiness, will lead to the solution of the social question by the creation of happy homes instead of a short-lived and disgusting drunken fit.—The Cologne News.

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.]

From the Second District.

Sending the notice which appears below, Mrs. McFarland, President of the Second District Society, says: "We have met with a very great loss in the death of dear Mrs. Alexander, our District Secretary Treasurer. I do not know how we shall do without her. She has been such an earnest, faithful worker. We shall miss her so much. Our local society (Hartland) is doing fairly well; we hold monthly meetings, but only a few attend them. Our church work is more encouraging than for some time."

A lady in Switzerland bequeathed \$150,000 to her native city to build and to keep a Home for orphaned or destitute young girls.

Sunday schools are an important feature of the work of the deaconesses in Singapore, no less than 490 pupils being gathered in their twenty-two schools, some of which are held in the open air, in the streets and lanes of the town.

Says Isabella Bird Bishop, the famous traveller: There was a time when I was altogether indifferent to missions, and would have avoided a mission station rather than have visited it. But the awful, pressing claims of the unchristianized nations which I have seen have taught me that the work of their conversion to Christ is one to which one would gladly give influence and whatever else God has given one.

A touching instance of self-sacrifice for the cause of missions was mentioned at the members' meeting of the English Baptist Missionary Society. A poor woman at Plymouth, England, lay ill in the hospital. She had no one to visit her but her husband, who came to see her once a week. On one of these visits he brought news of the threatened deficiency of £10,000 in the Society's income, and of the appeal which had been made to the churches for special offerings to avert it. The husband and wife, greatly concerned, talked the matter over and considered what they could do to help. But they were very poor, and there seemed no place where self-denial could be exercised. At length, however, the wife suggested that her husband should not

come to see her the following week. This suggestion was agreed upon, and the sum of 1s. 4d., instead of paying the husband's fare, was sent as a special contribution to the Self-denial Fund.

The wife of an India missionary now resting in Ontario, writes in the Guardian, regarding the workers of the W. F. M. Society. She says: "I have been made very happy since coming home, and my heart bounds with hope as I see the steady onward march of this great company of women. The first day that I spent at our Branch meeting I felt so tiny in the midst of such a majestic work. It seemed too good to be true that there was such a large number of noble, devoted women. The second day, I felt like shouting. Culture, talent, love, devotion, all these for God to use, and victory seemed in the very air. From the bottom of my heart I say, 'God bless our noble women at home.' They are building up a work in India which can never die, and are helping to bring a nation to God. I do not think I can ever again be discouraged after what I have seen of their love, energy and zeal." So the missionaries appreciate the efforts at home, and look at the work abroad. It is grand work helping to bring the nations to God.

Pundita Ramabai is to visit Montreal early in June. She is in America in the interest of the great work in behalf of the child-widows of India with which her name is associated. In the last ten years the Ramabai circles of this continent contributed about \$80,000 to her work. In her report of work done she shows that of this \$80,000 entrusted to her hands \$50,000 is in property which can at any time be sold at that price, and which is free and clear of debt, and about three hundred and fifty high caste widows who have received more or less of education in the school, some of whom are now happily married, and others of whom are supporting themselves as teachers, trained nurses, or in other capacities.

A Threatened Invasion.

Thibet, Bhutan, and Nepal are known as the three "closed countries," into which no European, whether missionary or of any other occupation, is allowed to enter. Miss Taylor, however, a young Englishwoman, found her way into Thibet, and is now trying to gather missionary recruits for it. She makes some remarkable statements. Woman, she affirms, occupies a higher position than in any other Eastern country, with the doubtful exception of Mongolia. In place of polygamy (so common among the Mohammedans), polyandry rules in Thibet, a woman being married, as a rule, to all the brothers of the family. In consequence of the nomadic character of the people, usually only one husband is at home at a time, the others being absent selling the products of their lands. In this way she accounts for the possibility of the peaceful application of the system. Women in that country, Miss Taylor asserts, are never punished, a fact to which she attributes the saving of her life on various occasions.

A number of women in this country made some years ago and passed resolutions that, if woman suffrage should not be enacted by the Federal government previous to the beginning of the twentieth century, they should migrate to some other region, as they held it wrong to be liable to be punished by laws to the enactment of which they did not contribute in precisely the same way that men did. This statement of Miss Taylor's concerning women not being punished may perhaps attract their attention to what, by all accounts, is a very fertile country, enjoying a delightful climate for the greater part of the year.

Notice.

The Woman's Foreign Mission Aid Societies of the Second District are requested to take notice that (Mrs. Dr. Secord has consented to act as Secretary-Treasurer in place of Mrs. R. Alexander, deceased, until District Meeting, when one will be elected. Her address is Farmerston, Carleton Co.

Mrs. L. E. McFarland, President.

AMPUTATION BY MACHINERY.—A four-inch circular saw for the amputation of limbs is being installed at the Emergency Hospital, Boston. An electric motor will furnish the power to run the device. The saw will be mounted on a flexible shaft, like that which a dentist uses, only larger. The bearings, in which runs the saw arbor, are attached to a handle, by which the surgeon is able to direct the saw at any angle. Dr. Galvin and his assistants will be able to save considerable time by the use of this appliance. Not only does the saw cut much faster than a hand tool, but the heat of its rapid cutting sears the flesh and blood-vessels, and the healing processes of nature are advanced to a stage which by the old method is reached only after an hour or two.—Philadelphia Record.

INVITATIONS DECLINED.—Recently Mrs. Hobart, wife of the Vice President, declined to take part in a private ovation to a foreign prince, which was to occur on Sunday, on the ground that she does not indulge in social festivities on the Lord's Day. The publication of the declination did not come from her. In pursuing such a course she recognizes her Lord in an effective manner. Not a few women are true to their principles, even where most fall when fashion tempts to popular forms of evil.

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Miss Helen Gould, Mrs. Charles D. Stickney and Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes, all society women of national repute, serve no wine with their dinners.

Straightening Hunchbacks.

At the annual meeting of the trustees of the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, recently, the Lord Mayor in the chair, Mr. W. Adamson, president of the institution, said he must allude to the continued success of the Röntgen rays, which was daily becoming more apparent. The room and apparatus at the hospital had been used for fifty-seven cases from March last to the close of the year, some being police cases. The Royal Southern Hospital was the pioneer in this country and the first general hospital in the world that practiced the straightening of hunchbacks—spinal curvature. Over seventy operations had been performed, inclusive of cases done a second time, and the results were most encouraging. The success had proved that in the future deformity need never occur. It was hoped that by this method persons might not only be rescued from deformity, but from early death. A large number of hunchbacks awaited treatment at the hospital. It seemed that the age of miracles had not ended. He had been permitted to watch one of these operations, and from the time the patient left his bed there appeared to be no pain whatever, either before, during, or after the operation, the patient's only fear being that when able to rise and dress his clothes would be too short. He also noted the fact that the Liverpool corporation was undertaking the whole ambulance system of the city.—London Times.

Among Exchanges.

WORSER THAN PECULIAR.

There is the peculiar person who does not go to any one of the churches in the town; but, if any religious crank is preaching fifteen miles, will walk all that distance to hear him. We recommend a new denomination—the Church of the Cranks!—Church Union.

OPENING THEIR EYES.

The war will reveal to the United States people a fact of which they have hitherto been strangely ignorant—namely, that it is not England, but the continent, which dislikes the United States and is their real enemy. Whenever we have had trouble with the union the continental powers have appeared to "back" America, but rather with the idea of making mischief, and so preventing that agreement between the two branches of our race which they so greatly dread, than from any real friendliness to the states. The attitude has hitherto deceived the United States. It will hardly do so in the future.—The Spectator.

HOW AND WHEN.

We believe in systematic Christian work—in the good work that is planned and in the good plan that is worked. We believe, too, in the systematic Christian giving—in giving a definite sum each week to the work of the Lord. If a person is obliged to be absent one Lord's day, we believe in him laying aside the amount he would have given if present, and adding it to his offering on the next Lord's day. If he is away on a vacation, we believe in him following the same principle. The expenses of the church go on just the same whether the attendance is large or small, whether the day is fine or stormy, whether the people are at home or on a vacation. Therefore we believe in systematic giving, both as to time and amount.—The Christian.

We can never see this world in its true light unless we consider our life in it as a state of discipline, a condition through which we are passing to prepare us for another state beyond.—I. W. Alexander.