

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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Notes and Gleanings.

Express Victoria, of Germany, presented the golden servants' cross to 144 servant girls who had lived over forty years with one family.

What is probably the most venerable piece of furniture in existence is now in the British Museum. It is the throne of Queen Hatsu, who reigned in the Nile valley some 1,600 years before Christ.

The papers tell of a boy who smoked 1,200 packages of cigarettes, saved the pictures, and sent them to the firm asking what they would give for them. The answer was, "Smoke 1,200 more and we'll send you a coffin."

Some of the titles of the high ecclesiastics of the Eastern Church are remarkable for their exalted character. For example, the Greek Patriarch of Alexandria calls himself "By Mercy of God Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria, Libya and the whole Africa, Fathers' Father, Pastors' Pastor, Thirteenth of the Apostles and Judge of the Universe."

The Duchess of Northumberland has a shawl which formerly belonged to Charles Tenth, of France, and was manufactured entirely from the fur of Persian cats. Many thousands of cat skins were utilized, and the weaving occupied some years. The shawl measures eight yards square, but is so fine that it can be compressed into the space of a large coffee cup.

An exchange says that one-fourth of the people on the earth die before the age of six, one half before the age of sixteen, and only one person in each one hundred born lives to the age of sixty-five. The deaths are estimated at sixty seven a minute, 97,790 a day, 35,639,835 a year; and the births at seventy a minute, 10,080 a day, 36,792,000 a year. The world's population therefore, gains about 1,100,000 every year.

The enormous proportions of the agricultural exports of the United States are shown in the fact that they already in the present fiscal year have reached the amount of \$720,000,000 in value. In the whole of the previous year the sum attained was \$683,000,000. As there are two months of trade this year yet to be taken into account, it is estimated that the full valuation will be \$850,000,000. This is \$300,000,000 larger than the exports of 1896, and it is about 71 per cent. of the total exports of the country.

An Article in the June number of McClure's Magazine on the cost of war shows that in the twenty-two years after 1793 the loss to the British and French people by Napoleon was not less than \$6,500,000,000 and 1,900,000 lives. The Crimean War, of two years' duration, cost Russia, Turkey, France and England \$1,500,000,000 and 600,000 lives. The Franco-German War cost \$1,500,000,000 and 200,000 lives. The estimate of the cost of the Civil War of the United States for both sides is \$8,000,000,000. The loss of life in war in the world's historic period is estimated at more than 7,000,000,000 men, the half of whom were killed since the beginning of the Christian era.

A gentleman who went out with Stanley to Africa, took with him a number of bird cages, in which he hoped to bring back some specimens of the rarer birds of the interior. Owing to the death of his carriers, he was obliged to throw away the bird cages with a number of other articles. These were seized by the natives in great glee, though they did not know what to do with them; but they eventually decided that the small circular cages were a kind of headgear, and, knocking off the bottom, the chiefs strutted about in them with evident pride. One chief, thinking himself more wise than the others, and having seen the white men eat at table out of dishes, thought they were receptacles for food, and took his meals from one, ceremoniously opening and shutting the door between each mouthful.

TEN MILLIONS.—It is now said that the losses of Lieber, the Chicago grain speculator, who was supposed to have made so much out of his wheat "corner," are likely to foot up \$10,000,000.

What Is the Matter With the Church?

BY E. B. RANDLE, D. D., IN CHRIS. ADVOCATE.

The Church, as defined in the Discipline, "is a congregation of faithful men in which the pure word of God is preached, and the sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same." The Church thus defined will surely make its way in the world, and induce all nations to acknowledge that Jesus is the Christ. The Church is a vital organism—a living thing—and it does and must necessarily adapt itself to new conditions.

But sometimes uneasiness and dissatisfaction exist in regard to doctrines which have been potent in the production of genuine Christian character. Many have plans for improving the doctrines of the Church in some way or other. Others would improve its methods of work and administration. They are not quite content with things just as they are. As a result of this unrest, the Church is not accomplishing that which it is its duty, as well as its privilege, to accomplish. The age is one of intense life in all departments of activity, and the Church ought to keep pace with it; but it is not doing so. It is alive, and doing a great work in the world, but is not fully meeting its obligations to every part of the world.

During the past fifty years the world has made greater progress than during many previous centuries. To-day the nations are closer together than ever before. The facilities for traveling are better, and the expense of traveling is less. Explorers are reaching every nook and corner of the globe. Traders are transacting business wherever man is found. Unless the Church accompanies commerce, our civilization may prove a curse, and not a blessing. Rum is doing more harm in some parts of Africa than the missionaries are doing good.

The new dangers which the Church has to meet are fully equal to the opportunities opening before it. God has placed it in the world to enlighten the nations and bring them to Christ; and while it is doing something, it is falling far below its responsibilities and privileges. The Church is not fully accomplishing its mission in a single city or community in the land. In some cities it is making very little impression on the people, and it has comparatively few accessions to its membership from the world. Most of those who unite with it come, by certificate, from towns and country churches. At the present time there are few sweeping revivals, something is wrong. What is it? The Gospel is still the power of God unto salvation.

"A faithful membership and ministry, and the pure word of God preached, and the sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinance," would accomplish the work. Our lack is at this point. While many of our membership are wholly consecrated to God and following the Lord fully, there are many more who are following Him afar off, and many who have a name to live, but are dead. They "belong to the Church," and that is all that can be truthfully said of them. Many office-bearers in the Church of Christ are never seen in the prayer-meeting, or Sunday school, and are not regular attendants on the ministry of the word, and no Church paper is taken and read in their homes. They know nothing as to the location of our missionary fields, and very little about missionary enterprises, and, having no interest in the matter, they give little to Missions, and sometimes even oppose foreign missionary work. They are not interested in the conversion of the world, because they are not in sympathy with the great commission of our Lord and Master. The fact is, they are not much interested in the salvation of souls at home.

Every pastor knows that only a minority of the membership of his church support him with their presence and prayers when he initiates a movement for the salvation of men and women. The writer is personally acquainted with official members of the church who opposed commencing a protracted meeting, and said to the pastor, "We already have all the mem-

PROHIBITION PLEBISCITE CAMPAIGN

TO ALL FRIENDS OF TEMPERANCE IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

At a meeting of representatives of the several Provincial religious denominations and Temperance bodies, held in St. John, in April 1897, "The Prohibition Plebiscite Campaign Committee" was organized, of which the undersigned were appointed Chairman and Secretary, and Mr. J. R. Woodburn, St. John, Treasurer. It was the intention of the Committee to proceed at once to organize for campaign work in the Province, and preliminary steps were taken.

Unexpectedly the Plebiscite Bill, then before Parliament, was postponed. The postponement of the Bill and the uncertainty as to when it would be passed made it impracticable to proceed.

Now that the Bill has been passed, and the assurance given that the vote will be taken early in the Fall of this year, it is the duty of the friends of prohibition in every part of the Province to get ready for the great contest which is before them.

The men of the Liquor Traffic are organized for the struggle. They realize that "their craft" is in danger. They are prepared to make a desperate fight to save it from the destruction which threatens it.

To meet and defeat this powerful and well-organized enemy is our present duty. It can be done. But to do it there must be the union of all the religious and moral forces of the country, and the arousing and marshalling of these forces by simple and effective organization.

It was suggested that a Provincial Convention be called. After due consideration, it has seemed to the committee that it would be better to use the time and money which would be spent in attending such Convention, in making county organizations, out of which will grow the necessary community organizations.

We, therefore, suggest that leaders of prohibition sentiment in each county call, at a central place, a meeting for county organization. To such meeting all the churches, temperance societies, Young Peoples' Societies, &c., in the county should be asked to send representatives; and such meeting may properly include all who are really interested in the great reform. The sooner such meeting is called in each county the better.

Though the date of voting is not yet announced, at most the time for active work is short, probably not more than a few weeks.

The work to be done by the County organizations will include public meetings in every part of the country, the distribution of literature, and much personal canvassing, besides looking after voters' lists, and, at the last, the appointment of agents to represent the prohibitionists at the polls.

There will be considerable expense in the purchase of literature, rent of halls, &c., &c., to meet which it will be necessary to raise a fund. In Quebec our friends are raising \$5000 for the work there, and in other Provinces liberal contributions are being made for the campaign. While not so much will be needed in this Province as in some, the friends of the movement should see that there is no lack in this respect. Besides individual contributions, the churches and societies will, we hope, be disposed to take collections for this purpose.

The Dominion Alliance has prepared a series of Leaflets suitable for the campaign, which will be furnished at prices below the cost of production. Mr. F. S. Spruce, 51 & 52 Confederation Life Building, Toronto, Ont., will answer all inquiries about literature, and will furnish it when ordered.

Now, let us all to the work. A great responsibility is upon us all. Every citizen is face to face with a solemn duty. If that duty is faithfully discharged righteousness will triumph.

Our appeal is to all men and women who are concerned for the welfare of the country, and anxious to strike a blow at the liquor traffic—the country's most powerful and cruel enemy.

Let there be an immediate rally in every part of the Province. And then push the battle with skill and courage.

JOS. McLEOD,
Chairman.

G. W. FISHER,
Secretary.

P. S. The Executive Committee wishes to be notified of Plebiscite organizations so soon as they are effected; and will, also, be glad to assist in any way in their power where assistance is needed. Correspondence may be addressed either to the Chairman, at Fredericton, or to the Secretary, at Fairville.

bers we need. That pastor began the meeting, but not one of those brethren came near it. Is it any wonder that the advancement of the Church is not more rapid along the line of its divine-appointed mission, when so many of its adherents are indifferent, if not really opposed, to the work God has commanded it to do?

All the skepticism in the world is not on the outside of the Church. There are members of the Church (not many, I trust) who question the inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of our Lord, and openly avow their disbelief in the doctrine of future eternal punishment. I am no pessimist, but an optimist. I believe that the Church will finally triumph, and that Jesus will yet reign without a rival from the rivers to the ends of the earth. But the Church at the present time is a long, long distance from perfection. What the Church needs is a genuine revival of the religion of the Holy Ghost among its entire membership; and such a revival it must experience to qualify it to bring the world to Jesus.

The blame for the slow progress of the Church in the conversion of the world does not rest wholly on the laity. The ministry, consecrated to God and true to its Church vows, is greatly hindered by the few who are not. Some ministers are responsible for the skepticism that is prevalent among the members of their congregations. Their preaching is of such a character as to create, rather than remove, doubt.

They publicly question the story of Jonah, the authenticity of certain books of the Bible, deny the doctrine of eternal punishment, and, in some instances, dispute the miraculous conception of the Saviour.

These ministers, by their insinuations and speculations, if not positive teachings, inject doubts into the minds of their hearers respecting the divine origin of the Holy Scriptures and the necessity of a devout and prayerful life. Such ministers do more harm than good, and remove from the minds of the impenitent the conviction that immediate preparation is required of all who would meet God in peace. Genuine and far-reaching revivals never follow the pulpit ministrations of such preachers. If I disbelieved the Bible I would abandon the pulpit, and let the people cherish as long as they could the sweet delusion of faith in God and His word.

What the Church needs to-day, in order to bring about the speedy conversion of the world, is a believing, consecrated membership and a believing, consecrated ministry. An infidel outside of the Church cannot do much harm; but an infidel in the Church, whether a minister or a layman, can do a great deal of harm.

A N. B. NUMBER.—The "Endeavor Banner" for June is specially a New Brunswick number. It has articles on Provincial work by the President and Vice President of the N. B. Union, and other active workers. The Banner is published in Montreal, by Mr. David Allen.

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.]

Second District Society.

The meeting was convened at Connell, C. Co., Saturday, at 2 p. m., June 18th. The day was fine and the attendance large. The delegates present fully represented the different Societies. This full attendance seemed to give fresh inspiration and impetus to the work. The meeting was opened by devotional exercises, the President, Mrs. McFarlane, being in the chair. On motion of Mrs. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Hartt, Mrs. Smith (the President of the parent Society) was invited to a seat on the platform. Mrs. Phillips spoke in a very feeling manner of the loss the Society sustained by the death of Mrs. Alexander, the late Secretary-Treasurer.

Resolved that Mrs. C. Holmes prepare and read a memorial in the public meeting. Mrs. Holmes (the H. S. Treasurer) reported \$3.50 on hand. It was voted that the money remain in the treasury of the district Soc., to be used as the executive thinks proper.

Resolved that Mrs. Phillips be appointed to purchase and distribute mite boxes to each Society. The election of officers followed, resulting in the choice of Mrs. Hartt as President, Mrs. Dr. Secord, Secretary-Treasurer, and Mrs. R. Grass, assistant Secretary. Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Barnes, Mrs. Barker, of the First District, and delegates from different Societies gave very interesting speeches about the work, which were full of enthusiasm. Our hearts were gladdened, as well as made sad. Doubtless all resolved to go home and do more and better work for the Master.

The public meeting in the evening was interesting. The President presided. The devotional exercises were impressive. The report of the Secretary, Mrs. Secord, was as follows:

It is with gratitude to God we come to celebrate the eighteenth anniversary of the W. F. M. Society, and to get more inspiration for the future. When we consider the great work of evangelizing the world, and take into consideration the small means at our command for doing it, we do not wonder that faithful souls scoff at the absurdity of our expecting to make any impression on heathenism. We realize that nothing short of the power that used Gideon's three hundred, with their lamps, pitchers and trumpets, for the complete rout of the Midianitish hordes, can accomplish any noble end, by our feeble efforts. But thank God, He can; and with Him we leave the result. Since our last meeting several of our dear sisters have heard the Master's call, and have gone to their Heavenly home, among them two members of Upper Waterville Society, and the late Secretary of the District Society.

"Servants of God well done! The battle's fought, the victory won Enter thy father's joy."

There are 26 localities in which there might be Societies. We have heard from nineteen. Tracy Mills Society has 16 members, no regular monthly prayer-meeting, and contributes \$21.45. Upper Waterville has lost two members by death, has had an increase of three members, and raised \$16.00. Hartland has 10 members, an increase of one during the year, sustains monthly prayer meetings, and has raised \$12.11. Lower Brighton gave \$20.00, has no regular meetings. Knowlesville contributed \$6.30. Victoria Corner \$11.00. Lindsay, \$3.55. Connell, \$7.35, and reports meeting every three months. Pembroke sends \$5.00 for foreign and \$1.00 for home missions. Knoxford \$8.60. Woodstock has a membership of 42, an increase of 6 members during the year, and contributes \$64.61, raised by subscription, contributions and mite boxes; it sustains monthly prayer-meeting. Rockland gave \$3.00. Third Tr. \$3.85, holds its meetings with Upper Waterville, has 6 members. Windsor contributes \$3.91. Upper Brighton \$2.25. Charleston \$2.70. Somerville \$1.00. South Wakefield \$1.00. Gordonsville 50 cents. Home Mission, including the dollar the treasurer has on hand, \$3.50. Half collection \$2.39. Total \$213.07. This is the largest amount ever raised in the District, and exceeds the sum raised last year by \$19.94. For this let us thank our Heavenly Father, "take courage," and not be satisfied until every church shall want a missionary Society, and every member ask the question, "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" What a solemn thing is life! How grand its opportunities! Let us have its responsibilities! Let us

be faithful stewards over the heritages God has given us. Are we not our brother's keepers?

Mrs. Holmes read the following memorial

"It has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from our midst our beloved sister Alexander, who so faithfully filled the important office of Secretary-Treasurer of the W. F. M. Society of this district for the past ten years. As the years went by she became more and more zealous in her work for the Master, in spreading the gospel. We, as a society, have sustained a very great loss; but we feel assured that our loss is her eternal gain. She said, on her dying bed, it must be dreadful to die without the hope she possessed, and urged those around her to do all they could for the poor heathen. I now present the message to you. May we profit by it, and live such lives that we may meet her where parting is unknown.

Dr. McLeod in his speech, referred to the deceased sister, and said, amongst other things, that he felt like putting a wreath of white flowers on the new made grave. She came to office, he said, in a critical time, she was true and loyal in the face of difficulties, and did much to make the Society a marked success. He then described some of the changes which had been wrought by missionary effort, and encouraged the sisters to press on with their work. Rev. C. T. Phillips said he would like to add some buds to the wreath of flowers on Mrs. Alexander's grave. He told of her work in the Sunday-School—how she taught the infant class in the Baptist church, and superintended the school in the Free Baptist. He also, made some interesting remarks on missions. The benediction was pronounced, and thus closed the eighteenth annual session of the Second District W. F. M. Society. E. C. SECORD, Sec.-Treas.

Fifth District Society.

The annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Mission Society of the Fifth District will be held at Jerusalem, Queens County, on Saturday, July 2nd, at 2.30 p. m. Blank forms have been forwarded to the Vice Presidents. We hope to hear from each one.

SADIE CARPENTER,
Sec.-Treas.

Sixth District Society.

The annual meeting of the W. F. M. Society of the Sixth District will meet on Saturday, July 9th, at 2.30 p. m., in the hall at Lower Millstream, K. Co.

R. J. McLEOD,
Sec.

Among Exchanges.

WILL GET HURT.

No man has ever learned to stick thorns in other people without wounding his own hand in the act.—Richmond Advocate.

"BUILDING UP."

A ship that is always coaling is a laughing stock abroad and a disappointment at home. There are said to be churches which have spent half a century in building themselves up, and still they are expending nine-tenths of their time and money on home expenses.—Can. Baptist.

A BOSTON OPINION.

Cherubic optimists who think Spain will speedily get down on her knees for peace should remember that they told us Spain would never, never fight the United States at all. Hispania isn't much of a fighter, but she has "the gift of continuance." The war isn't costing her very much. And she probably enjoys the thing as much as do the United Jingoos.—Morning Star.

"UNDER GOD."

It is time that the phrase "under God" was relegated to the realm of the obsolete. "Under God" is a cant phrase. The patent medicine certificates written by dilapidated clergymen usually close with something like this: "These results, under God, doctor, we owe to your concentrated elixir of life," or "your magic belt," or "your electro gull attachment." Recently a political speaker whose career does not indicate that he pays much attention to the Power that rules the nations, has exclaimed: "Under God we captured the Philippines, and under God we will hold them." We are quite surprised to see that some cultivated men use the phrase. It is not even as respectable as "Xmas," or "Xt," which are themselves written irreverences. Can't it be the brother of slang, and not the more respectable member of the family, either.—Chris. Advocate.