

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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V. HOLE No 2378

Notes and Gleanings.

The bottom of the Pacific, between Hawaii and California, is said to be on a level that a railroad could be laid for 500 miles without grading anywhere. This fact was discovered by the United States surveying vessel engaged in making soundings with the view of laying a cable.

For the last three months the sun has had an extraordinary number of very large spots on it. These have not been the usual spots whose appearance is regularly expected, but some never observed before. One was many hundred times larger than this earth. The effects of the sunspots on our world are still unknown, or at least uncertain. They generally coincide with great magnetic disturbances.

There were in Philadelphia harbor a few weeks since two British steamships, the Chandebeye and Labral, that are known as "temperance ships." Not only are not malt or spirituous liquors allowed on board, but their masters, before being given command by the managers, are required to take an oath and sign documents pledging themselves not to partake of any intoxicants. As a guarantee of good faith they must deposit with the manager a bond for £100, which is forfeited in case of any breach of this iron-clad rule. All the steamships owned by this company are known throughout the shipping world as the "temperance ships."

A new use has been found in steel by a Sheffield, England, firm, which is making a steel harness trace, consisting of a narrow ribbon of steel, from three fourths to one inch wide, rolled very thin and cased in rubber. A single trace of this kind, when tested at the Sheffield testing works, recorded a tensile breaking strain of 4,575 pounds, while an ordinary leather trace of the best quality, tested at the same works, broke at a strain of 2,700 pounds. In addition to being lighter and stronger than the ordinary trace, the steel article is about fifty per cent. cheaper. The steel is necessarily of the very finest quality, and is so pliable that it can be twisted in any direction.

The Sudan is generally considered to be an unproductive waste, and this idea is erroneous, according to the statement of Mr. R. W. Dickinson, who was with General Gordon, and who gives some interesting information concerning the rich of the Sudan in "The Contemporary Review." The annual crops of gum, ostrich feathers, hides, and cattle from Kordofan are valued at from five hundred thousand to six hundred thousand dollars a year. Besides this a large quantity of cotton was produced, and four fifths of the import trade was confined to goods. With the Sudan under English control there is every reason to believe that the desert can be made to bloom as the Nile. While the water supply is deficient, this can be overcome by a proper system of irrigation, such as is employed in this country and in Australia. It is estimated that an abundance of water can be procured by means of artesian wells, and that by means of irrigation thousands of acres can be brought under cultivation.

William Martin Conway, the noted explorer, has made a successful ascent of Mount Illimani, the loftiest mountains of the Andes, about twenty-five miles from La Paz, Bolivia. The ascent of 22,506 feet took five days, and the party suffered great weakness during their short stay on the mountain, though there was no actual snow. This mountain is a serrated ridge with four principal peaks, and its name from the fact that it is actually covered with snow. The north side it has glaciers 6,350 feet, and there is also a 9,950 feet above the level of the sea. Sir William Conway climbed much in Europe, Asia, and the regions, and in South America. He is about forty-two years old, and six years ago explored the Himalayas, surveying 600 square miles of mountain country, and reaching the top of 22,500 feet. Two years ago he traversed the entire range

of the Alps, and in 1896 he made explorations in the Arctic Ocean. He has written several books on mountaineering.

Send the INTELLIGENCER to some relative or friend, as a New Year present.

A Message to Prohibitionists.

The Executive Committee of the Dominion Prohibitory Alliance has issued "A Message" to the prohibitionists of the country. After setting forth the facts about the Plebiscite which we have already placed before our readers, it says:—

THE GENERAL RESULT.

Under all the circumstances there is reason for profound gratification in the result of the voting. The figures show clearly that a majority of the electors of Canada, including a vast majority of the English speaking electors, are overwhelmingly in favor of prohibition. The vote was not asked for by prohibitionists. The contest was invited by Government and Parliament, who framed the question, specified the conditions, and chose the time. It cannot be admitted that this action was taken by Parliament merely to trifle with public opinion. The French and English representatives and senators asked the people as a whole to express their opinions. It was declared that the will of the people as expressed would be carried out by Parliament. The members of Parliament thus practically agreed to obey the mandate which they invited, and it is as unreasonable and unjust to assume that Parliament will ignore the result as it would be for Parliament to refuse to carry out the agreement implied in the action already taken.

THE SITUATION

It will readily be seen that the situation imposes upon friends of the temperance cause new duties and heavy responsibilities. The battle over the principle of prohibition has been fought. The people of Canada have declared themselves against the continuance of the legalized liquor traffic. This fact must influence and to some extent determine our future action. Henceforth we have to deal with the practical problem of working out in effective legislation the principle that has been endorsed. That work must be done in Parliament by the people's representatives, and by the people in the election of representatives in accord with public opinion upon this question.

The character and details of legislation, the penalties for violation of law, the methods of enforcement, must be settled by Parliament. It is more than ever necessary that our members of Parliament shall be men who will fairly represent public opinion upon the question of prohibition.

Friends of the liquor traffic will also recognize this fact. They will be active and anxious to prevent the election of representatives who will accept and work out the mandate of the people. We must meet them with earnestness, wisdom, energy and determination. A constituency that has declared itself in favor of prohibition, can only be fairly represented in Parliament by a member who holds the same views.

Prohibition will be an issue in every general election and every bye-election to be held for many years to come.

THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.

Government and Parliament can take no action that will alter this aspect of the situation. It is our imperative duty to stand by those representatives who honestly and honourably insist upon the carrying out of the mandate of the people, and to oppose those who will suggest or endorse any rejection or disregard of that mandate.

The victory of September 29th was but the beginning of the battle. The enactment of prohibitory law will be another step in advance. The conflict will still go on. In it we must spend years and energies. It is well to fully understand the position we have won and all that it involves.

Our immediate duty is to perfect our organization. We cannot afford to disband a single company of the prohibition army. Every Provincial organization must be strengthened and made permanent. Every county association must hold itself ready for the next phase of the conflict, whatever it may

be, or whenever it may come. Every local committee must do the same. Churches, young people's societies and temperance organizations must wisely plan and carefully carry out even more effective educating and inspiring work than what has already been done.

WE MUST GO ON.

We deem it our duty also to call upon every friend of prohibition to aid us in securing speedy and effective legislation in accordance with the vote of the people and the pledges given before the Plebiscite was taken. We must insist upon our right to the ground we have gained. If it were simply a fight for personal advantage we might talk of a truce, or of leniency toward our foe. We are fighting, however, for interests too sacred to be compromised in the smallest degree. We are fighting for the moral, physical and social rights of those who are not able to fight for themselves. Any yielding to our enemies would be a betrayal of our cause. We dare do nothing but push on the battle with every energy that we can command.

In renewing your subscription, you will be doing your neighbor a favour by introducing the INTELLIGENCER into his home.

Raffling For Souls.

Says the "Journal and Messenger": A few weeks ago some representatives of Romanism professed to be very indignant because it was said that the Roman Catholic priests of Mexico promote raffles for souls in purgatory. They talked about it as a "Protestant slander," as though they were "real mad" about it. But the matter has been traced up, and it is found that it is even so, as the following apologetic explanation indicates. The "Freeman's Journal (Roman Catholic)" publishes it as received from the bishop of Angelopolis, Mexico, in response to a letter from Rev. J. F. Sheehan, of New York.

Shortly before the month of November, in certain churches in which special works are performed in aid of the souls in purgatory, the rectors of these churches make out a series of numbers, say from 1 to 1,000. Opposite to these numbers the faithful may write the names of the deceased persons for whom they wish work to be performed, giving at the same time an alms of ten cents or so to cover expenses. Certain special spiritual works are promised beforehand for the four or five souls whose numbers shall be drawn in the lottery. For example, for the first, the thirty Gregorian masses (one mass on each day for thirty successive days); for the second, a solemn mass of requiem; for the third, fourth, fifth, etc., a certain number of private masses; and, besides this, some masses are offered for all the souls in common. Nowhere have our priests given assurance that souls, even those aided by the special works have certainly left purgatory and gone to heaven.

So it seems that, while it requires a considerable amount of money to secure the liberation of a soul, and while many friends of the departed are too poor to pay the whole cost, as imposed by the priests, their love of gambling prompts them to club together and confer the favor upon the lucky one, as with a turkey in a raffle. No other construction can be put upon the transaction than that it is a raffle for souls. And, after all, no promise is made that the prayers are effective. The whole thing is a fraud of the blackest kind, and could be practiced only in a country thoroughly under the influence of Romanism, of which it is a fair illustration.

The INTELLIGENCER desires to go into every Free Baptist hymn in this country. Help it get there.

They Worship the Queen.

Bombay has been the scene of an extraordinary demonstration of the religious awe in which Queen Victoria, Empress of India, is held by certain of her East Indian subjects.

It will be remembered that late in 1895 or early in 1896, Nob's canopied statue of the Queen-Empress, which adorns the city of Bombay was terribly disfigured by some malicious person—a native was suspected, but it was probably a loafing European—pouring some deeply corroding and adhesive thick black liquid over the head and face and bust of the throne figure. The statue proved intractable to the services of every European sculptor and engineer and chemist consulted with regard to it; and the credit of at last removing it is solely and entirely due to Professor T. Bhowasdas Kalyanji Gajjar, M. A. and B. Sc., at present professor of chemistry in the

Wilson (Free Kirk) College, Bombay. The statue has from the first been an object of popular worship among the Hindus of Bombay, who firmly believe that the "plague," which has for so many years perplexed the town and "frighted the island from her propriety," has been inflicted on them for the sin of its desecration. They have, therefore, been most anxiously looking forward to the cleansing of the statue, and when they heard, on the morning of Nov. 5, that the boarding which had concealed it for about three years had been taken down during the night—without ceremony or form of any kind—they flocked to it in hundreds, from every part of the town and island, rushing towards it as they approached it, and prostrating themselves before it in true devotion, and praying that the "plague" might now be finally stayed and disappear altogether from their midst.

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.]

Acknowledgement.

New subscribers for the INTELLIGENCER have been received from the following members of the W. M. Society: Mrs. C. W. Weyman (1).

Bhimpore Work and Workers.

I.

The station from morning until night is busy, and quite the busiest in the hive are Dr. and Mrs. Burkholder, and here let me say that it will not be fault of theirs if any drone manages to exist, for they set every one at work.

The branches of work are church, with Sunday school and C. E., temperance, orphanage, educational, medical, Bible women's and cold-season village work. Of these departments Dr. and Mrs. B. have the sole charge, in addition to being the "mother," or mother and father, to young and old for miles around. Mrs. B.'s "eldest daughter" is about eighty years old. Her accents are so mild and persuasive as she says "mamma" that one cannot refrain from smiling. Indeed, they are children in many, many ways.

There are three churches, two of them branch organizations of the one at Bhimpore, which is now worshipping in its new chapel, and whose pastor is Pellaram Kisku, an ordained minister. In addition to preaching and conducting services during the week, he teaches the Bible classes in the day schools, for you know Bible study is in the regular course of study. The church pays Pella's salary altogether, and that of Dubku, a lay worker and home missionary. It was he who said, when some one mentioned his not being an educated man, "No, I can't read fluently in my Bible, but I can live it," meaning his Bible, and he does.

Church work there is very much the same as it is here. However, we do not have fairs and tea meetings, but we do have a family meeting every Sunday morning. After the usual service non-members depart, and then faults are confessed one to another, and if one has seen in a brother or sister something that looked like a stepping aside explanation is asked. I remember when we were having Yearly Meeting at Midnapore that Jimmy Marudi came to me requesting a note to Kerod Babu, a city official, asking that Jimmy's gaily be released. He had no license on it, but the policeman would not believe the statement of none being necessary, so seized it, believing Jimmy to be a trader. My note explained matters, but it was a case of the "mills of the gods" grinding slowly, and the belated traveler did not reach Bhimpore until some time after twelve o'clock Saturday night. The next Sunday after he was at service and confessed to having broken the Sabbath. A good many questions were asked, but after hearing my story he was forgiven.

The collections are taken in a different manner. Once a month, on communion morning, after the prayer service, the treasurer calls the name of each member and adherent, who comes forward and deposits his offering in the box. Other offerings during the month are placed on the table.

The Sunday school is large and interesting. None are too old or too young to go, and the percentage of attendance is high in the eighties. No quarterlies or lesson leaves are used. The pupils literally study the word of God. A call for a show of Bibles brings a shower of them to view a goodly sight. Then there is a weekly teachers' class, which is a great help to the work.

There are three regular C. E. societies, a young men's, a young women's, and the junior Endeavor. They are of course, different from those here, as unlike conditions render it necessary; but on the whole, considering their limitations, I think they do as effective work as is being done here in America. There is a W. C. T. U. amongst our women, and the usual lines are taken up. They are all unused to public work, but some of them enter into the true spirit of the movement. Social purity work gets a prominent place in the departments. A Band of Hope has many adherents, and in the schools they are asked each Saturday morning if the pledge has been kept. The jungle schools have the triple pledge too.

Our orphanage work is an important feature of Bhimpore life. From fifty to sixty boys and girls are inmates of the two homes and they bring much the same burden as the same number of little ones here would, for, after all, human nature is much the same, whether seen in Asiatic, European, or American children. Food, clothing, and schooling? No, that does not mean one-half of it. Teaching them the fear of God and social and moral purity, trying to inculcate habits of neatness and cleanliness, and striving to educate the hands as head and heart, make up some of the remaining duties, and it is a pleasant, delightful work. How far success has attended the endeavors we cannot know here.

The children are bright and lovable. The very naughtiest have some such good traits that offences are often condoned, remembering that cultivation of the good tends to uproot the undesirable. Luchini, "old faithful," a widow, is the matron, and is supported by the W. M. S. She is one that we call a "stand-by" here, and though she sputters sometimes it is easily overlooked when one remembers that she has twenty-five or more girls to look after, and that she loves every one of them.

Then Betsy is with them. How I would like to draw a faithful picture of that graceful, clever girl. She is an unusual character and a refining element amongst the Santal girls, who love her dearly. She was one of Miss Crawford's girls. "Twas she who was with the dear 'mother' to the end, and even after the lapse of years tears fill her eyes when speaking of the cure and affection of that strong bright soul.

EDNA C. WILE, in Star.

Many hundreds of subscriptions expired with the last issue. We hope to have renewals from all faithful at once.

Mission News and Notes

—In a hundred years of missionary effort, Baptists have contributed \$28,000,000 and sent 2,000 missionaries to the field.

—Three hundred islands of the Pacific, where one hundred years ago the gospel had not been heard, are now Christian.

—Nearly 2,500,000 souls in heathen lands are receiving Christian teaching. Will this bring failure or success?

—It is estimated that under the darkness of fetishism, 4,000,000 persons are yearly burned, mutilated, or otherwise sacrificed in superstitious cruelty.

—Buddhist priests in Japan are said to number 114,061, or one to every four hundred of the population. Christian missionaries number 652, or one to every 60,000.

—There are 950 Baptist missionaries in the foreign field. Assisting them there are 4,100 native preachers, working in 2,500 churches, which have a membership of 263,000.

—There are still islands in the great eastern archipelago where cannibalism is practised. Making a cross-section of human society to-day, we find all the varieties which in chronological

order would lead us back to the dark ages of the race.

—The number of native ministers in foreign fields has increased during the past fifty years from 158 to 4,018 or more than twenty-fold. And to the number of communicants during the past five years have been added more than 200,000.

—It is said that five hundred and ninety-nine thousand dollars was given last year by the native Christians in foreign lands for the work of the Lord. This shows a noble sense of giving when we consider that many of them earn only a few cents a day. There are about a million church members in the foreign field.

—Dr. John G. Paton's reports for the past year tell of 1,102 South Sea islanders won from cannibalism to Christianity, one missionary alone receiving two hundred adults into church membership. A translation of the New Testament into another of the ten languages has been finished by Dr. Paton, and will soon be issued.

—New Zealand, which was opened to civilization by Christian missionaries, now uses thousands of reapers and threshing machines imported from America. Commerce is the natural consequence of Christianization. In view of these facts, men of the world, who are to day lining their pockets with the pecuniary profits which come of trade, stimulated by the Cross, would do well to cease sneering at foreign missions.

—A statement from the Chinese agency to the American Bible Society reports that the Bible has been put upon the list of classics which the students are to study in order to secure their appointment in the civil service. Among the questions read by ten thousand students in one of the examination halls was this, "What do you know of the re-peopling of the earth by Noah and his family after the flood?" Hitherto the questions had been almost entirely on literary lines and limited to the literature of China. This year they are much broader, taking in more general history and the principal books of Christian countries.

—The servility of the ordinary Hindu is a byword. Make a Christian of him, and he becomes a man, resolute, courageous, independent. Mr. Little of Madras (a Wesleyan missionary), gives a happy instance. A Pariah is the most slavish of Hindoos, and the man of whom Mr. Little speaks—a Madras Pariah—has been no exception. He was a carpenter, able to earn a decent living. He was brought to Christ, and baptized—the only Christian in his village. The people of caste there came to him, and said that, if he would give up his worship of Jesus, he would have plenty of work; if not, he would be left to starve. "I believe in Jesus Christ, my Saviour," he said. "He has been good to me, and I won't deny Him; I will go hungry first."

—The Converted Catholic of which Dr. James O'Connor is the editor and publisher, in its September issue, says: "Besides Father Ferrando, there are several converted priests who are successful missionaries in South America. In Spain itself many priests have been converted, and some are bearing testimony to the truth of the gospel of Christ even at the peril of their lives. Last month we received a letter from a Christian friend in Barcelona, in which he refers to the good work of Don Pedro Salas, a converted priest, in that city. Father Salas, he says, is one of the foremost writers in Spain. Many pamphlets have come from his pen which the Religious Tract Society of London have published through their Madrid agency."

Among Exchanges.

BE USEFUL.

God save men from striving to be popular; God help men to strive to be useful.—The Telescope.

READ IT.

The minister who is silent on the drink question is aptly characterized in Isa. 56: 9 12.—The Free Baptist.

HAVE LIGHT.

We do not believe any preacher can build up a large congregation in a dimly lighted audience room. Any pastor could afford to eat no meat for a few months in order to help pay for an abundance of light.—Baptist Argus.